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DRAWER 27

TRIBUTES

71 2001 pre. 02093

Tributes to

Abraham Lincoln

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources providing testimonials lauding the 16th President of the United States

Surnames beginning with

G

From the files of the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009.085.02093

Gallagher, Austin

Lincoln's Boyhood in Old Kentucky

How Austin Gallagher Pulled Him Out of Knob Creek When They Were Children Together.—With Other New Lincoln Stories.

Ida M. Tarbell tells a story of Lincoln in the February American Magazine. It is Billy Brown's account of Lincoln and his relations with the soldiers. Billy Brown was an old Springfield, Ill., friend of Lincoln's. Here is something that Lincoln himself once said to Brown:

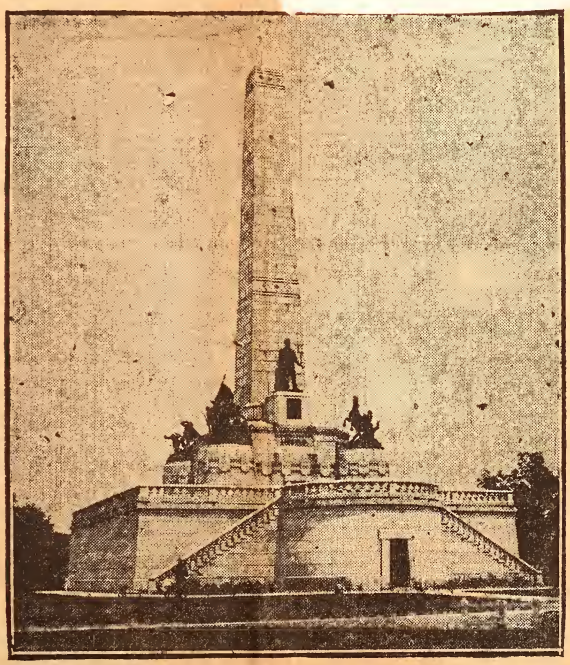
"A while after Bull Run I met a boy out on the street here on crutches, thin and white, and I stopped to ask him about how he got hurt. Well, Billy, he looked at me hard as nails, and he says: 'Be you Abe Lincoln?' And I said. 'Yes.' 'Well,' he says, 'all I've got to say is you don't know your job. I enlisted glad enough to do my part, and I've done it, but you ain't done yourn.

"'You promised to feed me, and I marched three days at the beginning of these troubles without anything to eat but hardtack and two chunks of salt pork—no bread, no coffee—and what I did get wasn't regular. They got us up one mornin' and marched us 10 miles without breakfast. Do you call that providin' for an army?

"'And they sent us down to fight the Rebs at Bull Run, and when we were doin' our best and holdin' em—I tell you, holdin' em—they told us to fall back. I swore I wouldn't—I hadn't come down there for that. They made me—rode me down. I got struck—struck in the back. Struck in the back and they left me there—never came for me, never gave me a drink and I dyin' of thirst.

"'I crawled five miles for water, and I'd be dead and rottin' in Virginia to-day if a teamster hadn't picked me up and found an old darkey to take care of me. You ain't doin' your job, Abe Lincoln; you won't win this war until you learn to take care of the soldiers.'

"I couldn't say a thing. It was true. It's been true all the time. It's true to-day. We ain't taking care of the soldiers like we ought."



LINCOLN'S TOMB AT SPRINGFIELD.

Starting the Union Pacific.

Fifty years ago Abraham Lincoln was the owner of town lots in the then little village of Council Bluffs, on the Iowa side of the Missouri River, and the owner of the adjoining property was Clement L. Vallandingham, writes Maj. Gen. Grenville M. Dodge in reminiscences in the February Appleton's. It was in part as a result of the first of these facts that my friendship with him began and continued on terms that I shall ever cherish in my memory.

Abraham Lincoln had just passed his 50th year when I, then a young civil engineer, first saw him. The place was Council Bluffs and the occasion of this, the westernmost journey that he ever took, such as to give me a certain intimacy of acquaintance even from the beginning.

My first work in an engineering corps was in 1853 on the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad, as it built westward from Chicago. We made a survey for the extension of this line all the way across Iowa to the Missouri River, and established the terminals of the road in Council Bluffs. I bought the 80 acres on which these terminals were located and sub-divided the tract, a portion being taken by the Rock Island interests and a portion by the citizens of the town.

When the Rock Island share was distributed, some of the lots were taken by N. B. Judd, the general attorney of the road. Mr. Judd was a prominent Illinois Republican, the intimate friend of Mr. Lincoln, and his representative in his debates with Senator Douglas. Lincoln's attention was drawn to the progress of the road westward, and to the opportunities it created. He therefore bought from Mr. Judd a portion of his interests in this tract, and exactly half a century ago visited Council Bluffs for the purpose of seeing the country and looking after his real estate interests.

While Lincoln was coming up the Missouri river toward Council Bluffs, I was returning from making a reconnoissance westward for the proposed Pacific railroad, and I reached Council Bluffs almost exactly at the time of his arrival there. We found ourselves stopping together at the Pacific Hotel, which stood directly opposite the site of my present office. Council Bluffs was then a frontier town of about 1500 inhibitants.

After dinner at the hotel Mr. Lincoln sought me out and engaged me in conversation about what I knew of the country west of the Missouri river. He greatly impressed me by the marked interest he displayed in the work in which I was engaged and he expressed himself as believing that there was nothing more important before the nation at that time than the building of a railroad to the Pacific coast.

He ingeniously extracted a great deal of information from me about the country beyond the river, the climate the character of the soil, the resources, the rivers and the route. When the long conversation ended, I realized that most of the things that I had been holding as secrets for my employers in the east had been given to him without reserve.

During the War.

My second interview with Lincoln was four years later. In the interval he had become President and two years of Civil War elapsed. Early in the war I had entered the service as Colonel of the Fourth Iowa Infantry, and at the time of which I speak, in 1863, I was Brigadier General of Volunteers in command at Corinth.

While in command at Corinth I received an order from General Grant to report to President Lincoln in Washington. When I reached Washington and reported to the President I found that he had called me to Washington to consult as to the proper place for the initial point of the Union

CONGER

Pacific Railway, which, under the Congressional act of 1862, he was empowered to select. He had not forgotten our conversation on the porch of the Pacific Hotel at Council Bluffs.

There was great competition from all the towns on both sides of the Missouri River for 50 miles above and below Council Bluffs, Ia., for the distinction of being selected as this initial point. I found Mr. Lincoln well posted in all the controlling reasons covering such a selection, and we went into the matter at length and discussed the argumtnts presented by the different competing localities.

It is a singular fact that while the United States had spent a great deal of money in exploration for a feasible line for the Pacific Railroad, the Government never had examined the natural route along the 42d parallel of latitude. All the surveys had been made and all the data obtained by private citizens connected with the Rock Island Railroad, at the head of which was Henry Farnam of Connecticut.

President Lincoln, after going over all the facts that could be presented to him, and from his own knowledge, finally fixed the eastern terminus of the Union Pacific Railroad where our surveys determined the proper locality—at Council Bluffs, Ia.

After this discussion of the location, he took up with me the question of building the road. The law of 1862 had failed to bring any capital or men to undertake the work, and I said to him that in my opinion private enterprise could not build the road. Mr. Lincoln said that the Government had its hands full, and could not undertake the work, but was ready to support any company to the fullest legal extent, and amend the law so as to enable such a company to issue securities that would furnish the necessary funds.

From Washington I went to New York, where I met the parties then connected with the Union Pacific Railway, John A. Dix, Henry Farnam, T. C. Durant, George Francis Train and others, and informed them of the result of my visit and what President Lincoln had said. They were greatly encouraged, and immediately went to work on the preparation of the measure which was afterward presented to Congress and passed as the Union Pacific bill of 1864.

Under this the road was built in some four years, although Congress had allowed 10 years for its construction, and I feel that it was Lincoln's faith, energy and comprehensive grasp of what the building of the road meant to the United States that induced Congress to pass liberal laws and made it possible to raise the funds to accomplish the work.

In Boyhood Days.

Austin Gallagher, the last surviving companion of Lincoln in boyhood, died at his home at Hodgenville, Ind., several years ago in his 90s. His home was eight miles from the village and in the heart of the Muldraugh Hill section, close to the old cabin in which he was born and reared and not far from Knob Creek, the stream from which he pulled Lincoln in boyhood. Old timbers on a hill near the house mark the site of the schoolhouse in which the two boys sat near each other.

When Thomas Lincoln, father of the President, was six years old his father, Abraham Lincoln's grandfather, was shot and killed by an Indian while working in a cornfield near his cabin in Kentucky, to which State the family had moved in 1781. When Lincoln was eight years old his father removed to what is now Spencer county, Indiana, then a forest. Abraham Lincoln had been born in Hardin county, Kentucky, his grandfather, Abraham and his father, Thomas Lincoln, having been born in Rockingham county, Va. His mother, Nancy Hanks, was a Virginian by birth, the ancestors on the father's side coming from Berks county, Pennsylvania.

"Uncle Austin Gallagher's memory of his boyhood playmate was good until a sickness in his 90s blotted out much of it. At the age of 91 he held a family reunion at which there were present nine children, 26 grandchildren and 45 great grandchildren, in addition to 15 great great grandchildren.

In speaking of his boyhood days with President Lincoln, "Uncle Austin" once said:

"I was 12 years old and Abe was 9 when we first knew each other, his family moving over here from near Hodgenville at that time. Shortly after the Lincolns moved here Abe and I started to school together up there on the hill. Those days were the happiest of my life," and he relapsed into silence for several moments, thinking over the long ago.

"He and I were deskmates and we had lots of fun on those old-time benches. Abe was more inclined to study than I and often when I would be playing during school hours with the other boys he would be busily engaged in the study of his books.

"Abe always remained at the head of his class and I never knew him to be turned down. His studious habits made him a favorite with the teacher, which caused a great deal of jealousy among his classmates toward him, and not being generally liked anyhow, it made him very unpopular.

"Abe was not a boy who made friends fast, but when he did he made one for life. He would stick closer to a friend in time of trouble than anybody I ever knew, and not a braver lad than he ever walked the earth.

Tantalized at School.

"At school the boys would tantalize the poor boy out of his senses, but he would always walk away and leave them alone—not because he was afraid of them, but for the reason that he wished to avoid trouble.

"They would tease him about his ragged clothes and snatch hold of him and tear them and then run away, leaving Abe alone to patch up his torn clothing the best he could.

"Then, too, they would stand back and call him harsh names. They didn't dare to come in reach. After school hours I would often find Abe in a fence corner crying as if his heart would break at the mean remarks made about his ragged clothing. He would never hint to his mother that his garments were being made fun of, knowing that it would hurt her.

"Abe's teacher called him 'Governor,' and often said that some day he would make his mark in the world. Sometimes the boys in the school would jump on Abe and knock him down and cuff him around as if he were a brute, but all the time he was trying to hold his own. These acts of cowardice on the part of the boys were more than I could stand and I would jump in and swing 'em right and left. You see, I was older and larger."

Rescued from Drowning.

Uncle Austin told how he once rescued the future President from drowning to death. The account as he gave it to the press is as follows:

"I can never forget that incident, for I was worse scared than I have ever been in my life.

"You see, it happened in this way: We were playing together one Sunday morning down beside the little stream over across the hill. It was much swollen from recent rains and was very swift. Directly I spied a flock of partridges from across the creek and called Abe's attention to them.

"'I'll go over there and kill them,' Abe said.

"But we were at a loss to find a way across.

"Finally Abe said: 'Let's coon it,' and going up the stream a little farther we found a log that had been thrown across for the work hands to pass.

"I started first and landed safely on the opposite shore.

"Then Abe started and after getting half way across his head began to turn and he fell in. Not being able to swim, he was fast being carried down stream. Seeing the danger he was in and not knowing how to swim myself, I got a long pole and handed him one end. Abe, who was more dead than alive, grabbed the pole and I dragged him out.

"When I had pulled him ashore he sank into unconsciousness. I rolled him over and began jumping up and down on him, and the water just began spurting out of his mouth, and after a little while he was all right. I tell you that was a narrow escape from death.

Lincoln's Childhood Love.

"Abe had a sister named Sallie, who was three years his senior and just exactly my age, and I fell in love with her. We used to write notes in school and I would walk home with her every evening. It is a pleasure to look back upon those happy days. When the Lincolns moved away from La Rue county Sallie and I were 15 years old and Abe was 12. I tell you our parting was a sad one. All of us cried, and as Sallie started to leave me I could not stand it any longer, but grabbed her and kissed her and hugged her many times.

"I frequently heard from Abe after he left La Rue county, but for several years previous to his nomination for President I had not heard from him. When I heard that he had been nominated my heart bounded with joy and it did me good to vote for him. When the news reached me that Abe had been elected I tell you I was proud to think that I had played with the President of the United States.

"I started to write to Abe, but thought that maybe he thought he was too good for me, so I didn't write. But a few days after he was elected I received a letter from him who I thought had forgotten me.

"He wrote of those happy days we spent together when we were boys, and closed by inviting me to make him a visit at the White House. I didn't go, but you can just bet that I felt proud."

Here the old man's mind began to wander and his memory seemed to totally fail him. But in a few minutes his mind altered and he continued: "I have always regretted that I did not make that visit to Lincoln, for he would doubtless have given me the highest office in his power."

Garfield, James A.
Pres.

JAMES A. GARFIELD'S LINCOLN TRIBUTE

Man, Who Met Death Himself by Assassin's Hand Declared Spirit of Treason and Slavery Killed Lincoln

President James A. Garfield, the martyred emancipator, made moved by the death of his friend, Lincoln's assassination the occasion for an address, which is both a tribute to the man and an estimation of his life.

Extracts from the address follow:

"In the great drama of the rebellion there were two casts. The first was the war, its victories and defeats, its sufferings and tears. Just as the curtain was lifting on the second and final act, the restoration of peace and liberty, the evil spirit of the rebellion, in the fury of despair, nerved and directed the hand of an assassin to strike down the chief character in both. It was no one man who killed Abraham Lincoln; it was the embodied spirit of treason and slavery, inspired with fearful despairing hate, that struck him down in the moment of the nation's supremest joy.

"Sir, there are times in the history of men and nations when they stand so near the veil that separate mortals from the immortals, time from eternity, and men from God, that they can almost hear the beatings and pulsations of the heart of the Infinite. Through such a time has this nation passed.

"When two hundred and fifty thousand brave spirits passed from the field of honor, through that thin veil, to the presence of God, and when at last its parting folds admitted the martyr president to the company of those dead heroes of the republic, the nation stood so near the veil that the whispers of God were heard by the children of men. Awe-stricken by his voice, the American people knelt in tearful reverence and made a solemn covenant with him and with each other that this nation should be saved from its enemies, that all its glories should be restored, and, on the ruins of slavery and treason, the temples of freedom and justice should be built, and should survive forever.

"It remains for us, concentrated by that great event and under a covenant with God, to keep that faith, to go forward in the great work until it shall be completed. Following the lead of that great man, and obeying the high behests of God, let us remember that:

"'He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgment seat;
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer him! be jubilant my feet!
Our God is marching on.'"

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Garrison, William Lloyd

GARRISON ON LINCOLN.

An Eloquent Speech Delivered at Springfield Fourteen Years Ago.

To the Editor of The Chicago Tribune.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Oct. 26.—Will you please publish the following address delivered here in the Representative Hall about the year 1867 by William Lloyd Garrison on Mr. Lincoln. The facts of the case are as follows: Mr. Garrison came to this city about the year 1867 to deliver a lecture to our people. He was a welcome and honored guest of mine—staying at my house for about two days. He delivered his lecture, I think a free one, in the hall of the House of Representatives—the hall of the old State House—which had resounded with the eloquence of a Douglas and a Lincoln. After the lecture had been delivered he tore the exordium from the lecture and gave it to me—he called it the exordium himself, and I put it away at the time so well that I never could find it till, a few days since, when I unboxed my Lincoln papers to find an autograph for a gentleman in Greencastle, Ind., I fortunately found it. The remarks are in Garrison's handwriting just as he gave it to me. It is quite eloquent and eulogistic, and may be of importance in the future as settling Garrison's opinion of Mr. Lincoln. The publication is due to both of these great men—Garrison, the great advocate of the anti-slavery cause, and Lincoln, the great emancipator. Let them go linked, down the ages of time, together forever and forever.

W. H. HERNDON.

In his exordium Mr. Garrison said: Standing as I do on the soil of Illinois, in the Capital of the State, in the Chamber of Representatives, I deem it my privilege and duty, first of all, to pay the tribute of my respect and high appreciation to the memory of your martyred fellow-citizen, the late President of the United States. Mr. Lincoln took the reins of government at a period of National disintegration through red-handed treason; when everywhere "patriots hearts were failing them for fear, and for looking after those things that were coming upon the land;" when the flames of Civil War had already made lurid the Southern sky, and Northern incendiaries were stealthily endeavoring to effect a universal conflagration; when the boldest held their breath, and the wisest confessed their ignorance, and the most far-seeing were in thick darkness; when every step was along the edge of a precipice, and the soil hot with volcanic fires; when the South was compact in rebellion, and the North so divided in allegiance as to make it extremely doubtful whether any reliant, dominant force could be found to uphold the Government; and when, through perfidy and robbery, not a dollar was left in the National Treasury, every Northern arsenal had been emptied to supply the South with arms and the munitions of war, the army rendered powerless by its reduction, and a feeble navy scattered to remote parts of the globe. In such appalling circumstances what caution and sagacity, what deliberation as to ways and means, what balancing of chances and possibilities, what unquenchable hope and indomitable courage, what commanding qualities of head and heart were needed to so combine the popular elements and so secure the general approval as to save the Republic, and place it on a foundation that could not be shaken! Abraham Lincoln was thus fortunately endowed, and, therefore, under God, the Rebellion is no more, and the Union made imperishable on the basis of universal liberty. Fortunate, indeed, was it that he was not a man of hot impulse on the one hand, nor a lover of arbitrary power on the other. The crisis demanded neither inflamed blood nor an iron one-man will, but abiding faith in the people, sound judgment, ready tact, inflexible perseverance, large common sense, strong powers of reasoning, incorruptible integrity, and unalloyed patriotism; and it found all these attributes in him whose tragical death civilized world has commemorated by all possible expressions of grief and horror.

It is true Mr. Lincoln was frequently subjected to the severest criticism and the most sweeping condemnation from different motives and for very different objects; but, whether the accusations came from one party or another, or whether they were well or ill meant, they were such as measurably to neutralize each other. Now he was accused of being mere driftwood, without weight or decision, passively governed by the events of the hour, timidly following instead of boldly leading public sentiment, "honest" enough, but utterly incompetent to fill a position of such trust; never born to be a commander, and too ignorant of the compass to be safely intrusted with the helm. Anon he was charged with usurping constitutional powers, striking down freedom of speech and of the press, tyrannically suspending the writ of habeas corpus, wilfully disregarding popular feeling and sentiment, and in other ways playing the dictator and deserving of impeachment.

In an interview with that remarkable representative of the colored race, Frederick Douglass, at the White House, Mr. Lincoln said: "I have been charged with being tardy and the like. I am also charged with vacillating; but I do not think that charge can be sustained. I think that it cannot be shown that where I have once taken a position I have retreated from it." "I told him," said Mr. Douglass, "that he had been somewhat slow in proclaiming equal protection to our colored soldiers and prisoners, and he replied that the country needed talking up to that point. He said he hesitated in regard to it when he felt that the country was not ready for it. He knew that the colored man throughout this country was a despised man, a hated man, and that if he had at first came out with such a proclamation, all the hatred which was poured out on the head of the negro race would have been visited on his administration. He said that there was preparatory work needed, and that that preparatory work had now been done. And he added, 'Remember this, Mr. Douglass; remember that Milliken's Bend, Port Hudson, and Fort Wagner are recent events; and that these were necessary to prepare the way for this proclamation of mine.' I thought," says Mr. Douglass, "it was reasonable; and I came to the conclusion that while Abraham Lincoln will not go down to posterity as Abraham the Great, or as Abraham the Wise, or as Abraham the Eloquent—although he is all three, wise, great, and eloquent—he will go down to posterity, if the country is saved, as Honest Abraham; and going down thus, his name may be written anywhere in this rude world of ours side by side with that of Washington without disparaging the latter."

It was not until the immortal Emancipation Proclamation of Jan. 1, 1863, that the doom of Rebellion was sealed. Then "the stars in their courses fought against Sisera"—the tide of victory was turned against the enemy with constantly-augmenting power till the Rebellion went down.

Oct 26

Geiger, John H.

(A personal code of honor of a public office-holder; akin to the Hippocratic Oath.)

The Statesmans Creed. (Original Version.)

A Statesman is a person who dedicates his life, energy and talents to the good of all, and his countries welfare. He is an advocate of liberty in law, with justice for all. He upholds the right, and rights the wrong. He is a friend of truth, and resolute in honor. He is sincere in purpose, and faithful in action. He keeps his promise; his word is his bond. His office, a public trust; and serving no private end, but rather, his countries weal. He endeavors to improve his nation from what it is, into what it ought to be, for the betterment of all. His ends; his countries, his Gods, and truth. No higher purpose in life can any man aspire to, and to have attained his goal is to have lived for a purpose far greater than himself, and well worth the price of achieving it.

The cause of the right, and for that which is true and just; he searches out. He put on a robe of righteous judgment, and it clothed him; for he respected not the person of any man before him, but instead decreed righteous judgment. He is a father to the poor; eyes to the blind; feet to the lame; a friend of the needy. He mended the broken-hearted. He bound up the wounded. He comforted the sick. He caused the heart of the widow to sing for joy. Because he heard the cry, and gave hope to the poor and the afflicted, and saw the despair of the orphan, and him that had none to help and was ready to perish; the blessing of them all descended upon him like a mantle. He is, what he is, because of what he believes and does. If there be such a man today, let him step forth to do his duty, and the world will be better by far, for having him among us. In the end, he will receive his full and just reward, from the giver of every good and perfect gift.

John H. Geiger

PS. In the final analysis, this declaration inescapably resolves itself in a tribute to Abraham Lincoln, for if this can be said of any man, it can be said of him.

John H. Geiger

JHG.

Gilkey, Dean Charles W.

ILLINOIS STATE REGISTER

Lincoln's Philosophy Activated by Tension Of the Will--Gilkey

(Picture on Picture Page)

Lincoln's philosophy of life was activated by a tension between his conception of the will of God and his own will, Dean Charles W. Gilkey of the University of Chicago, told a crowd of more than 300 persons at the Abraham Lincoln association banquet Tuesday night in Hotel Abraham Lincoln.

Dean Gilkey was introduced by Logan Hay, association president, who served as toastmaster and read his yearly paper on what Lincoln was doing a hundred years ago.

"Lincoln had within him an unresolved tension," declared Dean Gilkey, "between certain unreconciled tendencies which he never workd out within himself." He explained that this tension between positive and negative, as in electric power, set up a flow of power.

This, he said, was the tension between the idea of predestination inculcated in a young man reared among stern Baptists and the idea of self-reliance developed by life in pioneer times. "It was the tension between the will of God and self will."

Citing Herndon's statement that Lincoln was a thorough fatalist Gilkey asked how such a belief could be reconciled with Lincoln's habit of prayer in the White House and with his sense of personal responsibility in his presidency.

Dean Kilkey said another of the factors contributing to Lincoln's philosophy was that it was of slow growth. "Just as his prose style developed from the young lawyer's florid oratory to the restrained mastery of English in later life, so did his philosophy of life develop," he declared.

President Hay announced that Governor Dwight H. Green had become a member of the association. The governor spoke briefly, saying it was inspiring to live in the community where Lincoln lived.

President Hay also announced the association would publish in April "Lincoln Day by Day from 1809 to 1840", and that it had under consideration the publication of one or two projected works, either a history of Springfield from 1865 until the present, or a volume on Lincoln as a legislator.

The association's directors were re-elected, including Oliver R. Barrett, Chicago, who was chosen since the last annual meeting to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Governor Horner.

Gilder, Dr. Richard Watson

A NOTABLE TRIBUTE IS PAID TO LINCOLN

Dr. Richard Watson Gilder Delivers an Address at the Loyal Legion's Observance of Lincoln's Birthday Anniversary.

Richard Watson Gilder, editor of the Century Magazine, spoke on "Lincoln, the Leader," at the Lincoln memorial banquet of the Minnesota commandery of the Loyal Legion, given last night in the West hotel. The address was a comprehensive review of the qualities which united in making Lincoln "The Great American,"

The main dining hall was filled with about 500 members and guests of the Loyal Legion assembled to honor the memory of Lincoln. Commander C. G. Higbee presided and called upon the chaplain, General Robert N. Adams, to invoke the divine favor. Excusing himself on the score of the lateness of the hour from any preliminary remarks, Commander Higbee introduced Judge Daniel Fish as spokesman for the guests of the evening. Always interesting and always entertaining, Judge Fish was exceedingly fortunate in his characterization of the services of the soldier in the field, his keen sense of humor contributing not a little to his success. His fine tribute to the women of the war time found generous and general response in the hearts of his hearers. The subject has rarely been more acceptably treated.

Dr. Gilder Introduced.

Dr. Gilder was introduced as the soldier-poet, which he said he regarded as one of the most acceptable compliments he had ever received. Altho Dr. Gilder had no personal acquaintance with Lincoln, he had gone to New York shortly after the civil war and there, while working as a reporter on New York papers, had become acquainted with literary men of the day who had been Lincoln's friends. In beginning his address Mr. Gilder referred to this fact and spoke particularly of his acquaintance with John Hay who, asserted Dr. Gilder, has done much to help in the better understanding of Lincoln's character.

Dr. Gilder paid a tribute to Lincoln's literary style and asserted that he had acquired a style of higher distinction than that of Gladstone, and had bequeathed more than one masterpiece to the literature of the English tongue. In discussing the leadership of Lincoln, he asserted, certain qualities in his literary style could be found, which were traits of his character and elements in his leadership. Lincoln's sense of humor was one of the elements which flavored his writings, and which was of real assistance to his leadership. Candor, simplicity, lack of self consciousness—all of these traits of character aided him in his career and were shown in his writings.

Lincoln's Forbearance.

Lincoln's forbearance during the four years of the conflict between north and south was referred to as a trait of leadership which, in its effect on the successful termination of the war, could not be overestimated. "We are today a united country," asserted the speaker, "not only because Lincoln conducted the war to a successful issue, but because of Lincoln's wise and tolerant and sympathetic leadership during the war." As an illustration of Lincoln's sympathy for the people of the south, Dr. Gilder referred to his attempt during the last days of the hostilities to convert his own cabinet to his long-cherished scheme of compensated emancipation.

Lincoln's masterly tact in the treatment of individuals, his insight into motive and character, aided him, asserted Dr. Gilder, in securing the success of his plans. Lincoln's relations with his cabinet were referred to as an example of this trait of character.

Lincoln did not disdain to learn from experience. He was consistent, but not stubborn. "His was a consistency of principle rather than of program. His aim was justice, and if he could not reach it by one path, he would push on by another."

Special features of Lincoln's leadership were two acquired skills—the skill and knowledge of the long-practiced lawyer and the skill and knowledge of military strategy.

His Religious Traits.

Referring to Lincoln's religious traits, Dr. Gilder said: "An intensely important feature of Lincoln's leadership would be omitted if nothing were said of the effect upon his thought and conduct of his belief in the conscious communion with an almighty, mysterious and beneficent power, concerning itself not less with human affairs than with the march of seasons and the sweep of constellations. There was nothing of theology or dogmatism in his religious opinion, but he believed in the spirit."

Lincoln's religious nature showed that he had "lofty qualities of spiritual insight, or moral conviction, of solemn resolution, of undying courage, of complete devotion and faith and hope unfailing. He saw deeply, he felt intensely, he spoke at times with the voice of a prophet."

Referring again to Lincoln's sympathy and tenderness, Dr. Gilder said:

"And here is the wonder—this merciful man, daily saving the lives of deserters so as not to increase in the land a melancholy list of widows and orphans; this tender-souled, agonizing, consecrated leader, looking out upon armies encamped and a suffering people, is stern as fate in demanding that battle shall be made and war, with all its horrors, resolutely continued, till right is accomplished and eternal justice done. Here is the true leader—gentle and affectionate as any woman, as averse to violence—yet able to meet the unwelcome duty of the swordbearer with unflinching spirit."

The great test of Lincoln's leadership came in his dealing with the fundamental question of slavery. His political career before the war had to do with this complex question and he was unalterably opposed to the principles of slavery. He saw both sides of the question, however, asserted Dr. Gilder. He satisfied the extremists on neither side of the great debate, for while he would never compromise as to principle he did not refuse to compromise as to time and method.

Obstacles in His Way.

The innumerable difficulties with which Lincoln contended during the war were emphasized by the speaker, who said that thru all the divergence of counsel, "Lincoln watched, waited, prayed and incessantly worked toward the end his own intellect, his own heart approved." He delayed freeing the slaves "till he could with an honest mind declare that the necessity had arisen, knowing then also, the time had at last arrived when public opinion would sustain his action." Lincoln had said in a letter to Greeley, "If I could save the union without freeing any slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that."

Lincoln, asserted Dr. Gilder, kept "near the people" in order to lead thought and action in the way of his profound convictions and not to model his actions according to public opinion. His thought was first of the union and then of abolition and in many thoughtful minds this fact is his highest title to world-wide fame. That he both saved the union and destroyed slavery doubly crowned his stupendous accomplishment.

Dr. Gilder spoke of the last days on earth of Abraham Lincoln and of the fact that he had the satisfaction of knowing that his work had been crowned with success.

Counsel for Today.

Referring to the modern cry for leaders, Dr. Gilder said that it would be absurd to look for "another Lincoln," but that nothing could outwear the fundamental principles of Lincoln's leadership, and that it might well be demanded of modern leaders that they imitate the attitude of Lincoln toward public opinion, "that they should disdain to poison its sources by violent and unproved assertions and by the forced uses uses of our modern enginery of publicity; we may well insist that they should not meanly follow, nor falsely inform and selfishly mold the sentiment of voters; but direct aright and to no ignoble ends the opinions and the suffrages of the people.

Dr. Gilder gave a brief description of the nation's great grief at the death of Lincoln, and compared it to the mourning of a family for a much loved father. He concluded with this eloquent passage: "Thus thru grieving states was borne the body of the beloved chieftain—while the luminous spirit and example of Lincoln the leader of the people went forth into all the earth along the pathway of eternal fame."

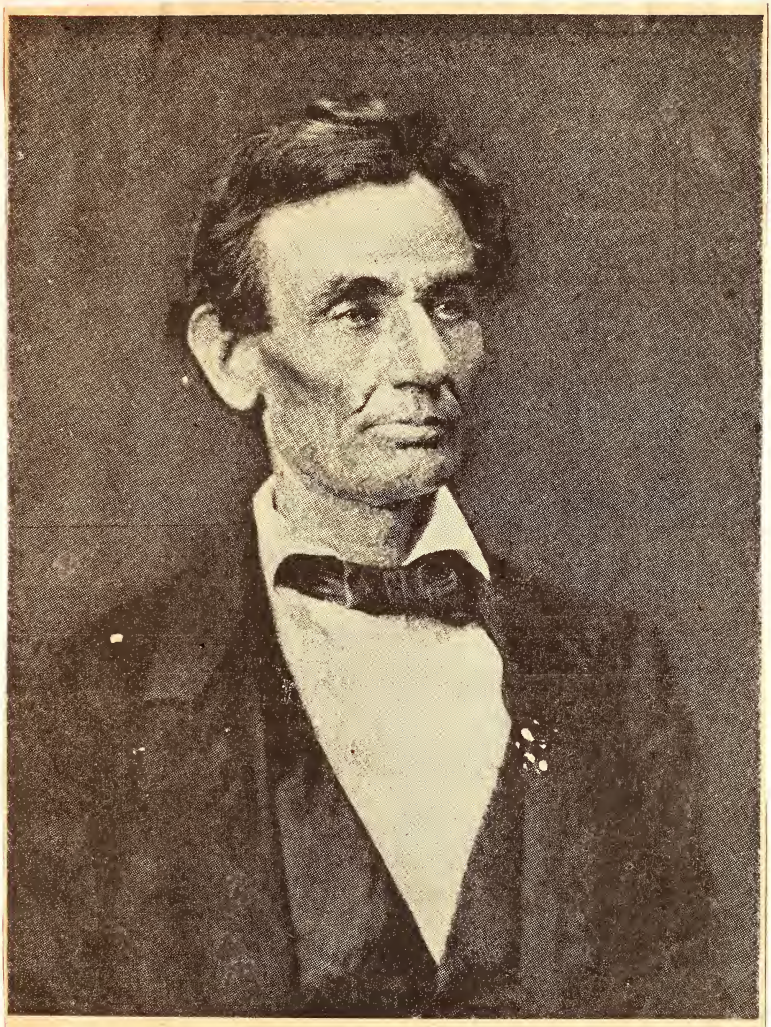
Letter from Seward.

A letter was read from Frederick W. Seward, who was secretary to his father, William H. Seward, when the latter was a member of Lincoln's cabinet. Mr. Seward describes his last meeting with Lincoln, on the day of the assassination:

"My last meeting with Abraham Lincoln was on the 14th of April, 1865. A note from him came to me, 'Please call a cabinet meeting at 11 o'clock, today. General Grant will be with us.' When I reached the White House, I found Mr. Lincoln, with an expression of visible relief and content upon his face, sitting in his study chair by the south window, chatting with Secretaries McCulloch and Welles, Attorney General Speed and Postmaster General Dennison, over 'the great news' from the front. He expressed his desire to get all the southern states back into their normal relations with the federal government, with as much speed and as few hardships, pains or penalties as possible. He hoped soon to see their state governments peacefully and loyally administered by themselves, and their senators and representatives again occupying seats in congress. The cabinet meeting was long and earnest, but all the members concurred in the president's views, and the discussion was chiefly over details of carrying out his policy."

Mrs. Maud Ulmer Jones sang two numbers, her rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" affording her a fine opportunity for her wonderful voice, and during the banquet Battery B band played a program of patriotic music.

The Christian Science Monitor
Boston, Mass.
Feb 11, 1956



Abraham Lincoln in 1860

This photograph shows Lincoln just before he assumed office as President. Certainly one of the finest photographic portraits of the Great Emancipator in existence, this picture was originally made by Alexander Hesler of Chicago. Distributed by Rand McNally & Co., it is reproduced by courtesy of the Chicago Historical Society, owner of the duplicate negative.

Gilstrap, Max

Lincoln Legend Heartens U.S.

By Max K. Gilstrap

Chief, Central News Bureau, The Christian Science Monitor

New Salem, Ill.

"It grows and grows like that big honey locust—the stirring legend of Abraham Lincoln."

Our guide squinted up a giant tree lifting its branches above the replica of the store where young Abe Lincoln sold goods to the pioneers of New Salem.

"The thought of Lincoln brings out the best in people," the guide continued. "Over 900,000 visitors from all parts of the world came here during the past year. Most of them went away better citizens."

A wintry gust of wind sent the brown leaves scurrying across scattered patches of snow. Raucous cries echoed from a flock of crows in a patch of white oaks down by the Sangamon River.

It was a bleak landscape dotted with a cluster of reproductions of the 25 log stores and dwellings that once housed a hundred or so stouthearted early Americans.

Lincoln, who worked here during six formative years as storekeeper, postmaster, and surveyor, likely would be pleased over the fruits borne by endless research and labor that went into reconstructing this rustic village.

High Lights on TV

He probably would hitch his belt and lift his tousled head with startled inquisitiveness if he could see the mysterious 60-foot tower that has appeared here suddenly in the past few days. It would take considerable explaining before even alert young Abe could understand how his early home would be seen across the nation via television as another Lincoln anniversary is observed.

New Salem is a vital part of the televised Lincoln story that is being depicted on "The Wide, Wide World" TV program on the 147th anniversary of the Civil War President's birth. Also included will be scenes from Lincoln's tomb and at the station where Lincoln gave his Farewell Address in nearby Springfield, and from the Lincoln Memorial in Washington.

A hint of the growing world interest in Lincoln is seen here in one of the shops at New Salem State Park.

Mementos Abound

Dozens of books, many of them newly published, crowd the shelves. Lincoln mementos—busts, log cabins, pencils, spinning wheels, coins, plates, T-shirts, etc., carry out the Lincoln theme. The fact that 150,000 more persons came here in 1955 than in 1954 indicates how much the Lincoln saga has been growing.

As New Salem handles record crowds, the custodian at Lincoln's tomb in Springfield reports a peak visitation of 750,000 visitors during 1955. More than 500,000 persons have visited Lincoln's nearby home since six rooms on the second floor were opened a year ago.

Last year more than 285,000 persons visited the birthplace of Lincoln in the national historical park near Hodgenville, Ky. They were from all the states and territories and from 81 foreign countries. This figure is 50,000 more than the one given two years previously.

At a time when there is much talk about the world trend toward materialism, the growing interest in Lincoln and his ideals is seen as offering encouraging evidence to the contrary. It is obvious to those who operate the various Lincoln shrines that the rail splitter who became President is a symbolic embodiment of the qualities that those who make the pilgrimage here most admire and wish to emulate.

Strength in Humility

Here in the robust Lincoln country — land of rich black earth, prairie swells, oak forests, prosperous farms with cribs full of corn and fields dotted with Herefords—a closeness is felt to the saviour of the nation. Tales of his prowess as a backwoodsman and his gift for story telling are legion in New Salem.

His logic as an expert debater is heard of in surrounding towns where he clashed with Stephen A. Douglas on the slavery issue. The quaint picture of Lincoln, the lawyer, with shawl-draped shoulders and stovepipe hat walking Springfield's streets is described by Vachel Lindsay.

No better picture, however, can be offered of Lincoln than that given in his own words.

He said little about himself personally. But he disclosed much of what he stood for—which is the measure of a person — in his often - repeated aphorisms.

Lincoln's firmness rang through his admonishment, "Stand with those who are right; stand with them as long as they are right, and part with them when they go wrong."

Deep humility characterized the modest words of his Gettysburg Address: "The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here."

Charity shone in the concluding words of his second inaugural: "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us finish the work we are in."

As the thoughts of Americans and the world turn gratefully to Lincoln on another anniversary of his birth, a visitor caught up in the bracing pioneer atmosphere of New Salem offered pertinent words from Ralph Waldo Emerson. They remind one not only of a great benefactor to humanity but pose a challenge to all who would emulate Lincoln's example: "Nor knowest thou what argument thy life to thy neighbor's creed has lent."

GOFF

A LINCOLN TRIBUTE

Upon the assembling of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals this morning, today being the centennial anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, Senior Circuit Judge Goff paid a very beautiful tribute to his memory, which is as follows:-

"Through all the ages that have come and gone, since God said "Let there be light", and light was, a propitious providence has not given to mankind, save only once when Jesus of Nazareth came to earth, so great a boon as when one hundred years ago today Abraham Lincoln breathed the breath of life.

Born to obscurity and in poverty, he died greater than any earthly potentate, and rich with the love of a people he lived to serve. Through all his life he battled for the right, and for the cause of human liberty he died. He was a devotee at the shrine of truth and justice, and while in life he wore no kingly crown, now when dead he still lives wearing a diadem jeweled with the devotion of his countrymen, and the admiration of all those lands where the sun of civilization shines.

Among heroes he is a hero, and among martyrs he is a martyr; among our statesmen he was the statesman, and among our presidents, the president. He loved the Union of the States, he had faith in the work of our fathers, and pride in the flag of our nation. He saved our country that all the people thereof might enjoy it, and that it might be, as today it is, a beacon light to all humanity. It is in memory of such a life, of such a man, that this court honors itself by now adjourning."

February 12, 1909 UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS.

L I N C O L N

The word which St. Paul chose to link eternally with faith and hope, and to be greater than them both, is difficult to translate. If we call it kindness, and the close understanding of the united mind and heart, none could have more of it than Lincoln. There are two types of men who help their fellows. One studies the world, and adapts itself, and gets ahead, whether born in hovel, farmhouse, or palace. It is clear-headed, deals with things as they are, and helps the world with energy and purpose. There is another type, less appreciated, less certain to succeed, because all love and sensitiveness and suffering, and these noble qualities carry with them no assurance of reward. Lincoln combined the types. His head was cool as his heart was warm. His sympathy was broad as his purpose was inflexible. His tenderness was equal to his logic. He labored to achieve, but he never trod the weaker under foot; he never hardened his heart against the worthless. His debates with Douglas, his reply to Greeley, are as clear and undisturbed as noon, but the letter to the widow who had given five sons to the war chokes the voice that tries to read it out. He saw with pure white light of reason, but throbbed with every shade of feeling. It is because of this double power--a heart limitless in charity, a mind relentless in truth--that he has become a star to follow, a type of that to which men would intrust themselves, their hopes, their faith; so that, less than half a century from his death, resemblance to Lincoln is the highest praise bestowed upon our public men.

Grady, Henry

GR

Henry Grady. New York
Dec. 22-1886.

"My friends, Dr. Talmage has told you that the typical American has yet to come. Let me tell you that he has already come. Great types, like valuable plants, are slow to flower and fruit; but from the union of these colonists, Puritans and cavaliers, from the straightening of their purposes and the crossing of their blood, slow perfecting through a century, came he who stands as the first typical American, the first who comprehended within himself all the strength and gentleness, all the majesty and grace of this Republic—Abraham Lincoln. He was the sum of Puritan and cavalier, for in his ardent nature were fused the virtues of both, and in the depths of his great soul the faults of both were lost. He was greater than Puritan, greater than cavalier, in that he was American and that in his honest form were first gathered the vast and thrilling forces of his ideal government—charging it with such tremendous meaning and elevating it above human suffering that martyrdom, though infamously aimed, came as a fitting crown to a life consecrated from the cradle to human liberty. Let us, each cherishing the traditions and honoring his fathers, build with reverent hands to the type of this simple but sublime life, in which all types are honored and in our common glory as Americans there will be plenty and to spare for your forefathers and for mine.

Letters From the People

VIEWS OF OUR READERS.

GRADY'S TRIBUTE TO LINCOLN

To The Houston Post:

HOUSTON, Texas.—In several issues of The Post articles have appeared severely criticizing the character and life of Abraham Lincoln. Criticism is also directed at those who have eulogized Lincoln, whether in their public addresses or in print. Some of these eulogies have been by local people, and it might not be amiss, on the subject of Lincoln's greatness, to quote from more distinguished authority. It will show, at least, the kind of company in which Lincoln's admirers have placed themselves.

Possibly of all writers and public speakers of the South, Henry W. Grady ranks first and foremost. He was loyal always to Southern traditions, and the inspirations of our hopes. Above all he was a peacemaker. These are the closing words of one of his speeches:

"Let us resolve to crown the miracle of our past with the spectacle of a Republic, compact, united, indissoluble in the bonds of love—loving from the Lakes to the Gulf—the wounds of war healed in every heart as on every hill—serene and resplendent at the summit of human achievement and earthly glory—blazing out the path, and making clear the way up which all the nations of the earth must come in God's appointed time."

Here, how appropriate the closing words of Lincoln's inaugural address:

"I am loath to close. We are not enemies but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory stretching from every battlefield and patriotic grave to every loving hearth all over this broad land will swell the chorus of the Union when again touched, as surely they will be, by the betters angels of our nature."

In his speech, December 21, 1886, Mr. Grady devotes one paragraph eulogizing Abraham Lincoln:

"My friends, Dr. Talmadge has told you that the typical American has yet to come. Let me tell you that he has already come. Great types, like valuable plants, are slow to flower and fruit. But from the union of these colonists, Puritans and Cavaliers, from the straightening of their purposes and the crossing of their blood, slow perfecting through a century, came him who stands as the first typical American—the first who comprehended within himself all the strength and gentleness, all the majesty and grace of this Republic—Abraham Lincoln. He was the sum of Puritan and Cavalier, for in his ardent nature were fused the virtues of both, and in the depths of his great soul the faults of both were lost. He was greater than Puritan, greater than Cavalier, in that he was American, and that in his honest form were first gathered the vast and thrilling forces of his ideal government—charging it with such tremendous meaning and elevating it above human suffering that martyrdom, though infamously aimed, came as a fitting crown to a life consecrated from the cradle to human liberty. Let us, each cherishing the traditions and honoring his fathers, build with reverent hands to the type of this simple but sublime life, in which all types are honored, and in our common glory as Americans there will be plenty and to spare for your forefathers and for mine."

F. A. COLLINS.

Grant Praises Lincoln 9-22-34

Galena, Ill., 1880.

A man of great ability, pure patriotism unselfish nature, full of forgiveness to his enemies, baring malice toward none, he proved to be the man above all others for the great struggle through which the nation had to pass to place itself among the greatest in the family of nations. His fame will grow brighter as time passes and his great work is better understood.

U. S. GRANT.

AMBASSADOR GRISCOM

There were four cornets, two trombones and one tuba, all under the direction of J. A. Beatley, leader of the English high school orchestra. S. Levine, M. I. Krewlee, J. W. Dunham and B. Levy were the cornetists, J. Harison and F Sodillo played trombones and Mr Beatley played the tuba.

UNITE TO HONOR MARTYR.

Civil War Veterans, Sons, Spanish War Vets and Others Attend Somerville Observance.

A Lincoln service was held last evening in the First M. E. church, Somerville, with 400 in attendance, the number including delegations from Willard C. Kinsley post 139, G. A. R.; Frank E. Draper camp, United Spanish War Veterans; Maj John A. Cummings camp 3, S. of V.; Mrs George O. Brastow tent 12, D. of V.; Somerville Fourth of July association and members of the board of aldermen.

Rev A. Howard Kennedy, rector of St Thomas' Episcopal church, offered prayer, and short addresses were made by Past Commanders Israel H. DeWolf and George B. Clarke of Willard C. Kinsley post, George E. Day, secretary of the Somerville Y. M. C. A.; Fred Ela Warren, past commander camp 3, S. of V.; Senator Elmer A. Stevens, Rev S. M. Carrington of Malden and Rev William Rice Newhall. Mayor John M. Woods presided.

Music was given by a chorus of 35 voices under the direction of Frank T. Wingate. The ushers were the following members of the Sons of Veterans' camp: A. L. Dearborn, Edgar C. Barker, Warren Auld, James C. Hagerty, Arthur C. Whitemore and Foster L. Wheeler.

LINCOLN AND GARIBALDI.

Their Relations During Civil War Brought Out at American Dinner at Rome.

ROME, Feb 12—The centennial of Lincoln's birth was fittingly celebrated at a dinner at the Excelsior hotel here tonight, which was attended by 110 Americans, including Ambassador Griscom, Signor Nathan, mayor of Rome, and several other Italian dignitaries.

G. W. Breck, director of the American academy in Rome, was toastmaster and Rev Walter Lawrie of Newport, R I, offered the invocation. Ambassador Griscom was the principal speaker, and his remarks on the friendship between Italy and the United States during the civil war, and which still continued, evoked hearty applause.

Mr Griscom said that the Americans present were enjoying the hospitality of the kingdom of Italy, which recently was stricken by the most disastrous calamity ever recorded in history.

In his address Mr Griscom referred to an historical incident as betraying the undercurrent of the feeling between Italy and the United States. [illegible] Nelson Gay of Boston, who is carrying relief to the mountain towns of Calabria, has unearthed in the archives of the embassy in Rome the history of the offer of Lincoln to Garibaldi to command one of the northern armies. Garibaldi refused the offer largely because the question of liberation of the slaves had not yet been decided. This was the only cause which would have induced the Italian patriot to engage in the American struggle. This incident shows the esteem in which Lincoln held Garibaldi.

Mr Griscom concluded by proposing a toast to President Roosevelt. Mayor Nathan proposed a toast to the health of King Victor Emmanuel, and later in a eulogistic speech on Lincoln caused a round of hearty applause by saying "Lincoln was not an American; he belonged to the whole world."

Prof Jesse B. Carter, director of the American school of classical studies in Rome, gave an historical sketch of [illegible] coln, D. O. Lee of New York spoke on Lincoln's influence and Dr W. W. Baldwin of Connecticut related an unpublished anecdote of Lincoln. All the speeches were warmly aplauded. The dinner ended with a toast by Day [illegible] Lubin of California to the memory of Lincoln.

INVITED BY LINCOLN.

Members of Hooker Post, East Boston, Tell of Visiting With President at White House.

The members of Joseph Hooker post 23, G. A. R., composed mostly of East Bostonians, and their friends observed the anniversary of the birth of Lincoln with a celebration in Grand Army hall, East Boston, last night. It was one of the largest attended affairs that the post has ever conducted.

Many of the members of this post had an intimate acquaintance with Lincoln, and as was said by George E. Harrington and Andrew P. Fisher, both past commanders, most of the "boys" had almost locked arms with him. Capt Harrington said that he well remembered the day when a delegation of the veterans was in Washington, and when seen by Lincoln, who was then President, he opened a window in the White House and invited them in.

The exercises were opened with a piano solo by Clarence H. Fisher, followed by a welcome from Maj Ainsley R. Hooper. The "Battle Hymn of the Republic" was sung by the Lotus quartet and the Gettysburg address was read by Past Commander George E. Harrington. Reminiscences of Lincoln were given by Andrew P. Fisher and Joseph Rossiter, past commanders of the post, followed by a tribute to his life and character by Dr Benjamin F. Campbell, chaplain of the post.

Five-minute addresses were given by members of the post and a collation was enjoyed.

GUTHRIE, WAYNE

THE INDIANAPOLIS NEWS 2-12-54

RINGSIDE IN HOOSIERLAND

Old Calendar Still Marks Lincoln Death

By WAYNE GUTHRIE

Lincoln's birthday brings to mind an unusual story I ran across some time ago about the martyred president in an old Wabash County history, a tale that has become a cherished tradition in that locality.

An old calendar, enclosed in a glass-front case at the Wabash County Museum bears testimony to the incident which relates not to Lincoln's birthday but, rather, to his death. Hence, this certainly is off the beaten path of Lincoln birthday stories.

Guthrie

It was on April 15, 1865, that the late Elijah Hackelman, then clerk of the Wabash Circuit Court, was going through his regular daily routine of changing the date card in the perpetual calendar that hung on his office wall. In fact he was in the act of taking from its place the card that bore the date of April 14, preparatory to putting in its place the April 15 card.

At that moment some one startled him by announcing that President Lincoln had been assassinated the previous day. The word so upset Hackelman that he let the April 14 card drop from his fingers. It slipped right back into the place from which he had taken it.

When he recovered from the terrible shock of the news he noticed what had happened—that the card was unchanged and the date still revealed the day of the assassination, April 14. He made up his mind then and there that that mute record should remain as it was, a constant reminder of that tragic day of infamy.

Thereupon he obtained another calendar for further daily use. As additional evidence of how the horrifying news had shocked him Hackelman made this notation in his diary:

"April—Saturday, 15, 1865. 9:30 a.m. I have just this moment received the news that President Lincoln was shot last night at Washington and died this morning."

That calendar, unchanged, hung just as Hackelman had left it that fateful day until the Courthouse was destroyed by fire about 1870. Naturally everyone supposed it was consumed in the blaze. But, lo and behold, such was not the case!

After the debris had been removed it was discovered that in some way the walls had fallen and the calendar had been protected, allowing it to escape unharmed.

It seems that some time before the fire a one-foot layer of sand had been placed on the second floor, the hope being that it would stop the spread of any fire if one should start in that part of the structure. However, the fire burned through the floor sleepers at their ends. That permitted the entire floor—sand and all—to drop into the ruins,—and the calendar—below. It seems that thereby, in some way, the calendar was covered so well by the sand and all that it was saved.

Thereafter it was salvaged and preserved as a Lincoln memento. When the new Courthouse was erected the calendar was hung in a special place in the clerk's office—right where it would be the first thing anyone entering the room would see.

How long it remained there I cannot say. Marjorie Schlemmer, Wabash newspaperwoman, verified that Hackelman did hang it there and that it remained there for several years. She said that it now is at the county museum in that glass-front case large enough to hold the battered metal container.

Mrs. Schlemmer said that evidently the calendar was one of the oldest perpetual ones, giving evidence that it might have been homemade. The metal holder, she explained, has two sections—the upper holding the month cards and the lower the date cards. She added that the month cards were charred in the fire. As a matter of fact, she continued, when the calendar was put in this new frame somebody neatly lettered "April" on another card and put it into the month section. However, the old "14" is still quite plain, although the cards, of course, are very brown with age.

G

DRAWER 27

TRIBUTES